



## FACT SHEET

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## 910<sup>TH</sup> Airlift Wing (AFRC)

Office of Public Affairs  
Youngstown Air Reserve Station  
3976 King Graves Rd., Unit 12  
Vienna, Ohio 44473-5912

## AERIAL SPRAY MISSION

### MISSION

The Department of Defense (DoD) tasks the 910th Airlift Wing at Youngstown Air Reserve Station (YARS), Ohio to maintain the DoD's only large area fixed-wing aerial spray capability to control disease-carrying insects, pest insects, undesirable vegetation and to disperse oil spills in large bodies of water. Missions may be executed in combat areas, on DoD installations or in response to disasters/emergencies as declared by the President of the United States.

### UNIT, AIRCRAFT, AND PERSONNEL

The 757<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron pilots, navigators, flight engineers, spray operators/loadmasters, and entomologists conduct aerial spray missions using four C-130H aircraft equipped with the Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS). These systems are maintained by 910<sup>th</sup> MX support personnel assigned to the spray mission. YARS houses one of four EPA-approved Training Centers for DoD Pesticide Applicator Certification serving both the continental U.S. and overseas DoD pest management facilities.

### COMMAND RELATIONSHIP

Brig. Gen. Brian E. Dominguez is commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC). When activated, the unit is gained by Air Mobility Command (AMC), at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

### HISTORY

- 1947, Air Force creates the Special Aerial Spray Flight to reduce troop losses due to vector borne diseases
- April 1, 1973, UC-123K spray aircraft and AF entomologists transferred from active duty's 4500<sup>th</sup> Aerial Spray Flight, Langley AFB, VA to AFRC's 355<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, Rickenbacker ANGB, OH
- May 22, 1973, First AFRC aerial spray mission conducted at Langley AFB, VA
- July 1973, assisted Panama combating Eastern Equine Encephalitis outbreak by controlling Canal Zone migratory salt-marsh and adult freshwater mosquitoes; conducted research with U.S. Army at Fort Drum, NY, testing efficacy aerial spray on black fly control
- 1975, over 160,000 acres of Guam refugee camp treated to preempt Dengue fever outbreak
- 1977 and 1978, conducted five missions controlling an internationally quarantined Japanese beetle infestation at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores
- 1981, aerial spray missions were flown for gypsy moth control at West Point, NY, Fort Dix, NJ, and McGuire AFB, NJ
- 1983, pioneered aerial spray control of biting midges at Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot, SC; also established a very successful vegetation control program at the Utah Test and Training Range saving U.S. Government \$1.5 million annually; also treated 217 communities and 525,024 acres responding to a public health emergency for Western Equine Encephalitis in Minnesota

- 1985, assisted Department of Agriculture in emergency control efforts over more than 700,000 acres of Idaho for a major grasshopper infestation
- 1986, C-130A's replaced UC-123K's after joint testing with the Department of Agriculture verified C-130 aerial spray effectiveness
- 1988, C-130E's replaced C-130A's, the Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS) was developed for C-130 operations; MASS is capable of ultra low to ultra high volume sprays
- 1989, FEMA supported treating over 855,000 acres in South Carolina after Hurricane Hugo
- January 1992, AFRC aerial spray mission transferred from Rickenbacker ANGB to Youngstown ARS, Ohio; C-130H's aircraft replaced C-130E's; established first ever dedicated spray maintenance flight
- 1992, supported Hurricane Andrew mosquito management support to FEMA, sprayed over 288,000 acres in Florida
- 1995, established a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between US Coast Guard and USAFR to apply dispersant during catastrophic oil spills
- 1996, unit added Geographical Information System (GIS) technology and Differential Global Positioning System receivers to spray aircraft
- October 1999, Hurricane Floyd mosquito infestation support to FEMA, sprayed approximately 1.7 million acres over VA and NC
- 2000, partnered with fire prevention program at Saylor Creek Range, Mountain Home AFB, ID, controlling cheatgrass with aerial applications allowing native prairie grasses to reestablish as the dominate species and reduce the potential for range fires
- 2001, new groundbreaking mission at Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND interrupting larval development and treating for flying adult mosquitoes at the same time
- 2005, established new mosquito control mission at Minot Air Force Base, ND
- 2005, the destruction and resulting debris resulting from the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita created prime breeding grounds for mosquitoes and filth flies putting the displaced populations and rescue workers at risk of vector-borne illness: Supporting FEMA, treated 2,880,662 acres over Louisiana and Texas culminating in the largest aerial spray mission ever conducted under AFRC
- 2006, multi-agency full scale oil spill exercises conducted off the coast of San Francisco, CA
- 2008, multi-agency full scale oil spill exercises conducted off the coast of Brownsville, TX
- 2007, added Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, GA treating areas in prohibited airspace
- 2008, after several years in the works and the aid of Congressman Tim Ryan, \$3 million was provided to enhance the aerial spray mission with the newer Wingman GX aerial spray targeting GPS using the latest computer technology and pesticide drift modeling available; additionally, the MASS was upgraded with new quantity indicating systems, replacing the 22-year-old units
- Sept-Oct 2008, the Wingman system was tested during post-hurricane Gustav mosquito sprays where more than 771,000 acres were treated in Louisiana
- 2009, Homestead Air Reserve Base, FL is the first ever all Reserve air installation spray mission treating Homestead ARB and surrounding Miami-Dade County
- May 2009, the spray flight performed the industry's largest effective larvicide aerial spray application over Army Corps of Engineers land near Williston, ND.; reductions in larval mosquito populations by over 95 percent in sampled areas were demonstrated
- May-June 2010, the 757<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron was directed by the President of the United States and tasked by the Secretary of Defense to conduct aerial spray for Operation Deep Water Horizon; the purpose of aerial spray for this mission was to use oil dispersing agents to aid in neutralizing the oil spill caused by the April 2010 sinking of the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico; this mission marked the first real world application of oil spill dispersants by the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing; The 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing flew 93 sorties, covering more than 30,000 acres
- May 2011, multi-agency full scale oil spill exercises conducted off the coast of San Diego, CA

**(Current as of December 2012)**